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AND

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COLLECTED AND EDITED

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ASSISTED BY AN ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN ANTIQUARIANS.

SIXTH EDITION; WITH IMPROVEMENTS AND ADDITIONS.

NEW YORK:
G. P. PUTNAM.
1861.

AMERICAN HISTORICAL CURIOSITIES, Part 1.

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Title: American Historical and Literary Curiosities, Part 1.

Author: John Jay Smith and John F. Watson

Release Date: July 14, 2004 [EBook #7901]

Language: English

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AMERICAN HISTORICAL AND LITERARY CURIOSITIES

By John Jay Smith and John F. Watson

Part 1.

P R E F A C E

TO THE FIFTH EDITION.

FIRST SERIES.

THE past has a charm for Americans, as well as for the inhabitants of countries whose history extends far into the shadowy and unknown; *our* early and romantic past has the merit of being known and truly related; everything which adds to these truths is sought for with avidity by the curious and intelligent inquirer. We have now many autograph collectors, who may be viewed in the light of preservers of documents which would otherwise perish or be dispersed; to few, comparatively, are their treasures revealed. It was suggested, therefore, that a few of the most rare and curious "Historical and Literary Curiosities" in the possession of individuals, should be grouped for the amusement and instruction of the present and of future generations, who may well know from printed accounts *what* things were done, but who can also thus learn *how* they were done.

Nearly all the articles in the present collection have been taken by competent artists from the originals of which they purport to be fac-similes. Considerable labor and trouble have been expended in collecting together the varied materials here presented; but it has been with the Editors a "labor of love," rewarded by the pleasure of the pursuit.

The work having been received with extraordinary favor by the public, and a fifth edition being called for, some additions and alterations have been made, which will create increased interest in the volume.

J. JAY SMITH,
JOHN F. WATSON.

* * Fully to understand the work, it is necessary, in turning over the pages, to have constant reference to the Table of Contents, where will be found many explanations for which space could not be found on the plates.

NOTE TO THE SIXTH EDITION.

Notwithstanding the announcement in the second series of this work that the first would not be reprinted, the public has demanded a sixth edition, which has been entirely redrawn, and many highly interesting additions have been made.

PHILADELPHIA, October, 1860.

Part One

C O N T E N T S.

- Plate 1.—Copy of the celebrated Pitcher Portrait of Washington. When a crate of pitchers was opened in 1801, this portrait was found upon them; being considered a remarkable likeness, the whole of the pitchers were broken, and the likenesses carefully framed and preserved.
Gold Medal presented to Washington, by Congress, on the evacuation of Boston. Book Plate of Washington. Visiting cards of Washington, as Colonel, and as General, left at Governor John Dickinson's. The two latter
In the possession of J. Jay Smith.
- Plates 2 and 3.—Letter from General Washington "to Joseph Reed, Esq.—or in his absence, to General Cadwalader, Esq., only, at Bristol," written three days before the battle of Trenton.
In the possession of William B. Reed, Esq.
- Plate 4.—Letter from Mrs. Martha Washington to Joseph Reed, Esq., from Morristown, partly illegible.
In the possession of William B. Reed, Esq.
- Plates 5 and 6.—Letter of the Committee of Secrecy in 1776, ordering clothing for the army, to be purchased anywhere except in Great Britain and Ireland.
In the possession of J. Jay Smith.
- Plate 7.—Autobiography of John Adams. Written for Mr. Delaplaine, when that gentleman was composing his biographies.
In the possession of John F. Watson.

[Plate 1.](#)

[Plate 2.](#)

[Plate 3.](#)

[Plate 4.](#)

[Plate 5.](#)

[Plate 6.](#)

[Plate 7.](#)



Pitcher Portrait of
WASHINGTON.



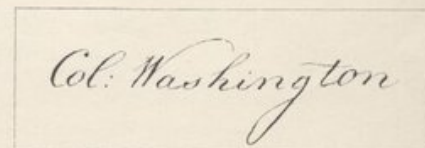
Copy of a Gold Medal presented to General



Washington by Congress on the Evacuation of Boston



Washington's Book Plate



Washington's visiting Cards

Enlarge

To Joseph Reed Esq^r - or in his absence to Jn^o Cadwallader Esq^r only at Bristol.

D. Sr

Camp above Trinton Lake
23^d December 1776

The bearer is sent down to
know whether your plan was attempted last
Night - and if not, to inform you that Christ-
mas day at Night, one hour before day is
the time fixed upon for our attempt on
Benton. - For heaven's sake keep this to
yourself, as the discovery of it may
prove fatal to us, our numbers, sorry
I am to say, being less than I had any
conception of - but necessity, dire neces-
sity will - nay must justify any at-
- Prepare I in concert with Sr
tack as many of their Posts as y^e
sibly can with a prospect of success
- The more we can attack, at the same
Instant, the more confusion will be
spread and greater good will result
from it. - If I had not been fully
informed of the Enemy's design I
have now ample testimony of their
Intentions to attack Philadelphia so
soon as the Ice will afford the means
of conveyance. -

As the Colonels of the Continen-
tal Regiments might pick up some
dust about Command (unless Cadwal-
lader

Enlarge

Lader is consider'd by them, in the light of a Brigadier, which I wish him to be. I desired Genl. Bates, who is unwell, & applied for leave to go to Philadelphia to endeavour if his health would permit him to call and stay two or three days at Bristol in his way. —

I shall not be particular — we could not ripen matters for an attack, before the time mentioned in the first part of this letter — so much out of sorts, & so much in want of every thing, are the Troops under Sullivan &c. — Let me know by a careful express the Plan you are to pursue. — The Letter herewith I have forwarded on to Philadelphia — I could wish it to be in, in time for the Southern Post's departure which will be, I believe by 11 o'clock to morrow. —

I am D^r Sir Y^r Most ob^d Serv^t

I have ordered our Men to be provided with three days Provisions ready Cook'd, with which, and their Blankets they are to march, for if we are successful which Heaven grant & other Circumstances favour we may push on. — I shall direct every Ferry & Ford to be well guarded & not a soul suffered to pass without an officers going down with the permit — do the same with you. —

G^d Washington

Enlarge

Morristown Du

Sir

The very polite and obliging invitation to lodge with you, — contained in your favor of the 12th Inst. — came to my hands yesterday — I beg you to be persuaded in that I should accept it with much pleasure did I not conceive myself under an engagement to Mr Pettit, who was pleased when he was here to request me to make use of his house while I stayed in Phila: which will not exceed 3 or 4 days and for which place I shall leave this to-morrow —

It gives me much pleasure to hear of Mrs Reed's recovery — and that she is in a room to receive company down my grateful thanks and best wishes attend her and you — I am Sir

Your most obed^t and obliged

Martin Washington

Addressed to Joseph Reed Esq^r

Enlarge

Mr John Ross Philadelphia 27th Septem^r 1776
Sir

A several of the vessels by which we have heretofore ordered out Blankets and Clothing for the use of the publick, have unfortunately been taken - we think it prudent to give fresh orders in hopes the goods may yet reach America in time to be very serviceable, we therefore request you to purchase on the very best in your power immediately on the Receipt of this letter

30,000 Yds Broad Cloth Brown and blue
colours from 3^d to 6^d of 54th yard
3,000 Yds different Colours for facing about
4th of 54th yard -
1000 Pairs Shifts or some such cloth
about 90^d

We will immediately set about making you Remittance to pay for these goods therefore you may either employ any money already in your hands on publick Account in this purchase or pledge your Credit for speedy payment as we are making large purchases of Rice Indigo, Tobacco &c for immediate exportation, and the approaching Season will give us fair opportunity of getting these goods to Market, whereas we have been much hamper'd during Summer by the Cruizers on our Coast. You will buy these goods when you can soonest get them, off Britain and Ireland excepted and you may send

Enlarge

them out by any good vessels belonging to America, but if none such offers immediately you may charter a foreign vessel to take them and proceed for this coast immediately with orders to get into the first place of safety the probably can in the United States of America, whatever terms you fix on shall be complied with, depending that you will have them as moderate as possible and we will load the vessel back to Europe immediately if any difficulty occurs about getting these goods out to America direct You may then ship them out to William Bingham Esq^r at Martinico to Cornelius Stuenkel at St Eustatia, ^{Spain} ~~M^r Kuyper~~ Gouverneur at Curacao or to Mr^r Stephen Fergus at Cape Francois, with orders to them to forward them to us with all possible despatch by different conveyances We beg your Utmost attention and diligence in the execution of this order the goods are extremely wanted and you must not lose one moment of time, you may rest assured of soon being enabled to pay for them and we remain Sir

Your Most Obedt Servts

Rob^t Morris

Richard Henry Lee

Thos^s Lewis

Josiah Bartlett

Chas. Livingston

Enlarge

Sir

Quincy December 30 1815

I was born Oct^r 19. 1735 in Quincy then the North Parish in Braintree, my Father was John Adams born in the same Parish, My Grandfather was Joseph Adams Junior born in the same Parish, My Great Grandfather was Joseph Adams Senior, and my Great great Grandfather was Henry Adams who came from England. These all lived died and were buried in this Parish as their Gravesstones on the Congregational Church yard distinctly shew to this day My Mother was Susanna Boylston a Daughter of Peter Boylston of Brakeline, I was educated partly at the public Grammar School and partly at a private Academy under Mr Joseph Marsh, both in this Parish. In 1757 I entered Harvard Colledge in Cambridge In 1755 took my degree of Bachelor of Arts, and immediately undertook the care of the Public Grammar School in Worcester where I lived in the Family and studied Law in the Office of James Putnam, till 1754 when I took my Second Degree at Colledge and the Oath of an Attorney in Boston In 1761 I was admitted a Barrister at Law in Boston in the Superior Court of Judicature of the Province of Massachusetts Bay. In 1764 I married a Daughter of the Reverend William Smith Abigail Smith, of Weymouth. In 1767 my Son John Quincy Adams was born in this Parish. * * * *

In 1755 I took a decided part against France and Great Britain too; thoroughly disgusted with ^{her} Policy. The Ignorance, the Cowardice or Treachery of her Conduct of the War against Canada, This Indignation was much increased by her degrading Treatment of our Troops through the whole War.

In 1760 and 1761, upon the first Appearance of the Design of Great Britain to deprive us of our Liberties by asserting the Sovereign Authority of Parliament over us. I took a decided Part against her, and have persevered for Fifty five Years in opposing and resisting to ^{the} utmost of my power every Instance of her Injustice, and arbitrary Power, towards us. I am, Sir with much respect

your humble servant
John Adams

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